In The Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 5, with the following rewritten paragraph:

As used herein, "analyte" refers to any atom and/or molecule; including their complexes and fragment ions. In the case of biological molecules/macromolecules or "biopolymers", such analytes include but are not limited to: proteins, peptides, DNA, RNA, carbohydrates, steroids, and lipids. Note that most important biomolecules under investigation for their involvement in the structure or regulation of life processes are quite large (typically several thousand times larger than H_2O) .

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 19, line 2, with the following rewritten paragraph:

FIGURE 1 is a representation of derived data which characterizes a disease specific marker having a particular sequence (SEQ ID NO:1) useful in evidencing and categorizing at least one particular disease state[;]. Each patient listed in the data table shows the presence of the disease specific marker (SEQ ID NO:1) in their serum.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 19, line 6, with the following rewritten paragraph:

FIGURE 2 is the characteristic profile derived via SELDI/TOF MS of the disease specific marker of Figure 1. SEQ ID NO:1 is shown.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 22, line 19, with the following re-written paragraph:

Chelating [Sepharose] SEPHAROSE Mini Column

1. Dilute Sera in Sample/Running buffer;

2. Add Chelating [Sepharose] SEPHAROSE slurry to column and allow column to pack;

3. Add UF water to the column to aid in packing;

4. Add Charging Buffer once water is at the level of the resin surface;

5. Add UF water to wash through non bound metal ions once charge buffer washes through;

6. Add running buffer to equilibrate column for sample loading;

7. Add diluted serum sample;

8. Add running buffer to wash unbound protein;

9. Add elution buffer and collect elution fractions for analysis;

10. Acidify each elution fraction.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 36, line 2, with the following re-written paragraph:

The instant invention involves the use of a combination of preparatory steps in conjunction with mass spectroscopy and time-of-flight detection procedures to maximize the diversity of biopolymers which are verifiable within a particular sample. The cohort of biopolymers verified within such a sample is then viewed with reference to their ability to evidence at least one particular disease state; thereby enabling a diagnostician to gain the ability to characterize either the presence or absence of [said] at least one disease state relative to recognition of the presence and/or the absence of [said] <u>the</u> biopolymer.